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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## MORPC ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER FREE HOMEOWNERSHIP CLASSES

(Columbus-August 24, 2009) The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) Homeownership Program is accepting registrations for its September series of free homeownership classes. Graduates of the Homeownership Program, who are income eligible, may be able to receive down payment assistance of up to three percent of a home purchase price plus out-of-pocket expenses for a maximum of \$3,000.

The MORPC Homeownership Program is certified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the City of Columbus. Funding is provided by HUD, Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Housing Finance Agency, Franklin County, Huntington Bank, Fifth Third Foundation and Third Federal. Attendees receive a certificate at the end of their participation in the classes. Each session is two hours long except for the Home Maintenance & Repair course which lasts for five and one-half hours. September classes include:

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| September 9  | <b>Credit/Budgeting</b> – Participants learn how to read and understand their credit report, learn difference between collections, judgments, slow pays, and more.                       |
| September 10 | <b>Post-purchase</b> – Open to first-time homebuyers, this course provides new homebuyers with information and support to decrease their chances of default or foreclosures.             |
| September 12 | <b>Home Repair &amp; Maintenance</b> – Hands-on session which participants learn common plumbing and electrical repair, drywall patching, tile replacement, and more.                    |
| September 16 | <b>Home Inspection/Home Insurance</b> – A licensed home inspector discuss the need for home inspections, finding a reputable home inspector, what to look for in a home inspection, etc. |
| September 23 | <b>Realtor/Mortgage/Predatory Lending</b> – Participants go through an actual home-buying process.   |
| September 24 | <b>Post-purchase</b> – Same class as September 10 – Open to first-time homebuyers.   |

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*Working to Build a Better Region*

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“With reasonable purchase prices and low-interest rates, this is a good time to think about buying a home. Our classes teach you about buying a home that you can afford and maintain for many years,” states MORPC Director of Housing and Community Services Kathy Werkmeister. “MORPC also offers free default and foreclosure assistance.”

All classes, except for Home Repair, will take place at MORPC’s office building located at 111 Liberty Street, Suite 100 in downtown Columbus’ Brewery District. Free parking is available. MORPC is handicapped accessible and located two blocks from a COTA bus stop. For more information on MORPC Homeownership or Housing programs, please visit [morpc.org](http://morpc.org). To register for classes please call 614-233-4176.

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MORPC is a voluntary association of 47 local governments in central Ohio serving the region through planning, direct service, public policy information and innovative programming and intergovernmental coordinating services in the areas of transportation, land use, energy conservation, the environment and housing. MORPC is currently celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and its efforts to build a better central Ohio region.